

Appl. No. 09/584,252

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-33 have been added.

5 Claims 1, 4-15 and 17-20 were considered in the Office Action. Claims 1, 5, 12-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McNeil et al., U.S. Patent 6,167,052 (hereinafter McNeil). Claims 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNeil in view of Specht, U.S. Patent 6,414,958 B1. Claim 11
10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

15 Newly added independent claims 21 and 29 both include limitations as in objected-to claim 11 wherein a shared computer system authenticates client identification before a virtual private network router in the shared computer system is configured to connect client computers to computers in the shared computer system. The Applicants therefore believe that
20 the currently pending claims are allowable over the cited references, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed September 29, 2004, and respectfully request the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

25 Dated: 12/28/04

Respectfully submitted,
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